IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A system that includes a security policy server, an identification authority server, a revocation authority server, verification authority server, and a user computer, comprising:

a module within the identification authority server that, pursuant to a first ~~long-term~~ policy that establishes identity of said user in said network, received from said security policy server, and a first request from said user computer, prepares and sends to said user computer, via a public network to which said user computer, identification authority server, revocation authority server, and said verification authority server are connected and through which said identification authority server and said revocation authority server interact with said verification authority server and said user computer, an identification certificate that includes a freshness constraint represented by a time duration referenced to time of said first request by said user computer;

a module within said revocation authority server configured to store in a memory that is coupled to said revocation authority via said network, a validity statement in response to a received second ~~short-term~~ policy that is time-of-day sensitive, and to update said validity statement at specified intervals, said validity statement pertaining solely said user and including an explicit verification status for said user as of a specified date and time ~~at some temporal reference~~;

means configured to provide, in response to a second request initiated by said user computer, said identification certificate and said validity statement retrieved from said memory, to said verification authority server, via said public network; and

a module within said verification authority server configured to verify that said request is within said time duration and said validity statement permits serving said second request by said user computer.